

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. CON. RES. 41

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 21, 1998

Referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Calling for a United States initiative seeking a just and peaceful resolution of the situation on Cyprus.

Whereas the Republic of Cyprus has been divided and occupied by foreign forces since 1974 in violation of United Nations resolutions;

Whereas the international community, Congress, and successive United States administrations have called for an end to the status quo on Cyprus, considering that it perpetuates an unacceptable violation of international law and fundamental human rights affecting all the people of Cyprus, and undermines significant United States interests in the Eastern Mediterranean region;

Whereas the international community and the United States Government have repeatedly called for the speedy withdrawal of all foreign forces from the territory of Cyprus;

Whereas there are internationally acceptable means to resolve the situation in Cyprus, including the demilitarization of

Cyprus and the establishment of a multinational force to ensure the security of both communities in Cyprus;

Whereas during the past year tensions in Cyprus have dramatically increased, with violent incidents occurring along cease-fire lines at a level not reached since 1974;

Whereas recent events in Cyprus have heightened the potential for armed conflict in the region involving two North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) allies, Greece and Turkey, which would threaten vital United States interests in the already volatile Eastern Mediterranean area and beyond;

Whereas a peaceful, just, and lasting solution to the Cyprus problem would greatly benefit the security, and the political, economic, and social well-being of all Cypriots, as well as contribute to improved relations between Greece and Turkey;

Whereas a lasting solution to the Cyprus problem would also strengthen peace and stability in the Eastern Mediterranean and serve important interests of the United States;

Whereas the United Nations has repeatedly stated the parameters for such a solution, most recently in United Nations Security Council Resolution 1092, adopted on December 23, 1996, with United States support;

Whereas the prospect of the accession by Cyprus to the European Union, which the United States has actively supported, could serve as a catalyst for a solution to the Cyprus problem;

Whereas President Bill Clinton has pledged that in 1997 the United States will “play a heightened role in promoting a resolution in Cyprus”; and

Whereas United States leadership will be a crucial factor in achieving a solution to the Cyprus problem, and increased United States involvement in the search for this solution will contribute to a reduction of tension on Cyprus: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*
 2 *concurring), That Congress—*

3 (1) reaffirms its view that the status quo on
 4 Cyprus is unacceptable and detrimental to the inter-
 5 ests of the United States in the Eastern Mediterra-
 6 nean and beyond;

7 (2) considers that lasting peace and stability on
 8 Cyprus could be best secured by—

9 (A) a process of complete demilitarization
 10 leading to the withdrawal of all foreign occupa-
 11 tion forces;

12 (B) the cessation of foreign arms transfers
 13 to Cyprus; and

14 (C) the provision of alternative internation-
 15 ally acceptable and effective security arrange-
 16 ments with guaranteed rights for both commu-
 17 nities as negotiated by the parties;

18 (3) welcomes and supports the commitment by
 19 President Clinton to give increased attention to Cy-
 20 prus and to make the search for a solution a priority
 21 of United States foreign policy, as witnessed by the

1 appointment of Ambassador Richard Holbrooke as
2 Special Presidential Emissary for Cyprus; and

3 (4) calls upon the parties to lend their full sup-
4 port and cooperation to United States, United Na-
5 tions, and other international efforts to promote an
6 equitable and speedy resolution of the Cyprus
7 problem—

8 (A) on the basis of international law, the
9 provisions of relevant United Nations Security
10 Council resolutions, and democratic principles,
11 including respect for human rights; and

12 (B) in accordance with the norms and re-
13 quirements for accession to the European
14 Union.

Passed the Senate July 23, 1997.

Attest:

GARY SISCO,
Secretary.